

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05206 011130Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 5206

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, US,FR,PK
SUBJ: REPROCESSING ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 136685, (B) ISLAMABAD 5321

1. AS OUR POLICY WITH RESPECT PAKISTAN BEGINS DEVELOP CONSTRUCTIVE MOMENTUM, REFTELS HAVE TOUCHED UPON ROLE WHICH IRAN CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY IN THIS EFFORT. THE SHAH WILL NATURALLY WELCOME BOTH THE DECISION BY THE FRENCH TO CANCEL THE REPROCESSING PLANT AND THE PROPOSAL BY THE U.S. TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE IN THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SPHERE.

2. TO MAKE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF THIS SITUATION, I WOULD SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

(A) LETTER TO SHAH FROM THE PRESIDENT IN RESPONSE SHAH'S LETTER OF MAY 8. IN THIS RESPONSE, THE PRESIDENT COULD NOT ONLY LAY OUT OUR INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT AID PROGRAMS FOR PAKISTAN, BUT ALSO INCLUDE ART HUMMEL'S POINT (REF B) ABOUT ENLISTING SHAH'S ASSISTANCE IN CONTAINING PAKISTAN REACTION TO FRENCH CANCELLATION OF REPROCESSING PLANT.

(B) DAVE NEWSOM SHOULD PLAN TO VISIT TEHRAN FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SHAH BEFORE RPT BEFORE HE GOES TO ISLAMABAD. I NOTE THAT HE WILL BE IN PARIS NEXT WEEK FOR THE AFRICA CONFERENCE AND ASSUME HE WILL MOVE EASTWARD FROM THERE. IT

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WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DATE CAN BE FIXED SOONEST FOR HIS VISIT HERE BECAUSE SHAH'S CALENDAR IS BECOMING CROWDED WITH STREAM OF OFFICIAL AND STATE VISITORS OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR DAVE TO HAVE A GOOD, SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH SHAH AND I WOULD LIKE TO BLOCK OUT AN AUDIENCE AS SOON AS I CAN.

(C) SOME ACTIVE CONSULTATION BY THE FRENCH WITH THE SHAH

IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE A CERTAIN MEASURE OF WESTERN COLLABORATION ON THIS SUBJECT. SINCE I AM NOT CERTAIN HOW MUCH MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE IN TEHRAN IS CLUED INTO THIS ACTION, I HAVE BEEN UNABLE DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH HIM.

3. REF B HAS ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT IRAN MIGHT AID IN THE PAKISTAN MILITARY SUPPLY EFFORT BY TRANSFERRING SOME F-5-E AIRCRAFT. I FEEL THAT WE MUST MOVE WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION ON THIS POINT. IN MY JUDGEMENT, THE SHAH WOULD DECLINE TO CONSIDER THIS TRANSFER UNLESS AND UNTIL HE HAS FIRM CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF HIS ADDITIONAL F-14 AND F-16 AIRCRAFT BUYS. EVEN THEN, HE MAY BE RELUCTANT TO PART WITH F-5-E AIRCRAFT UNTIL THE F-14 AND F-16 PLANES ARE ACTUALLY IN HAND IN IRAN. THEREFORE, IF DAVE NEWSOM IS TO RAISE THIS SUGGESTION, IT WILL HAVE TO BE ON A CONTINGENT BASIS AND WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY FIRM ASSURANCES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTS AND WILL ENDORSE TO THE CONGRESS THE FULL NUMBER OF F-14 AND F-16 AIRCRAFT. THE SHAH WISHES TO BUY. IN ADDITION, WE MUST EXPECT HIM TO INCLUDE THE WILD WEASEL AIRCRAFT IN THIS SAME CATEGORY.

4. FINALLY, THE SHAH WILL NEED TO KNOW HOW WE EXPECT TO BRING SAUDI ARABIA INTO THIS CONCERTED PROGRAM. HE IS IN SOME MEASURE SUSPICIOUS OF SAUDI INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PAKISTAN. HE FEELS THEIR AID HAS BEEN SUBTLY CONDITIONED UPON THE DE-SECULARIZATION OF PAKISTAN AND THE INTRODUCTION
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OF STRICT ISLAMIC CODES WHICH INVOLVE RETROGRESSIVE PRACTICES SUCH AS CUTTING OFF HANDS AND PUBLIC LASHINGS. HE FEELS THIS RESURGENCE OF "BACKWARD ISLAM" HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE TROUBLES HE IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING WITH THE LOCAL ULEMA. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO KNOW, THEREFORE, WHETHER SAUDI ARABIA WILL MERELY BE ENCOURAGED TO INCREASE LARGESSE TO PAKISTAN INDEPENDENTLY OR WHETHER IT WILL BE BROUGHT INTO HARNESS IN A JOINT AID EFFORT LED BY THE UNITED STATES.

5. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PASS THIS CABLE TO PARIS, JIDDA AND ISLAMABAD.
SULLIVAN

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